

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
JULY 22, 2015

NOTE: The Public Session was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Shirley Birenz, RDH.

ATTENDANCE: The following members were in attendance:

Joseph Battaglia, DMD; Shirley Birenz, RDH; Emil Cappetta, DDS; Elizabeth Clemente, DDS; Peter Clemente, DMD; Nicholas C. DeRobertis, DMD; Herbert Dolinsky, DDS; Steven Goldstein, DDS; Roger Kriete, DMD; Richard D. Riva, DDS

OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy Attorneys General Miller and Oo; Executive Director Jonathan Eisenmenger

ABSENT: Beverly Kupiec, PhD, RN

NOTE: Deputy Attorney General Meaghan Goulding was introduced as co-counsel to the Board.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 8, 2015 - The Board in a motion by Dr. DeRobertis, seconded by Dr. E. Clemente, approved the minutes as amended.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Applications:

1. Shashvat K. Soni - Application for dental hygiene license. The Board determined that Mr. Soni must take a clinical exam, or show that he has already passed a comparable exam.
2. Dr. Yoon Chan Paul Han - Application for a dental license. The Board determined that he must take and pass the endodontic section of the ADEX exam.
3. Dr. Chandini N. Hudson - Application for a dental license. The Board determined to issue her a license in the normal course.
4. Dr. Latoya Callahan - Application for a dental license. The Board determined to issue her a license in the normal course.

5. Dr. Padma Mukherjee - Application for dental license. Dr. Mukherjee also addressed the Board during the “Public Comment” portion of the meeting. After re-reviewing the information provided by Dr. Mukherjee, the Board determined that she did not qualify for licensure by endorsement, because she had not earned a DMD/DDS degree until 2014 (Rutgers). She obtained a license in Texas, in 2002, a State that does not have substantially equivalent requirements for licensure. Dr. Mukherjee must take and pass the clinical portion of the NERB/ADEX exam.

B. Continuing Education:

The Board in a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. DeRobertis, approved the continuing education committee recommendations.

C. Credentials Committee:

Report on discussion of the committee concerning applicants for licensure who have taken clinical examinations other than the ADEX/NERB exam. The committee has gathered information, and has determined that additional information is required. The committee has determined that it cannot yet make a determination of the comparability of the examinations without the use of an independent expert evaluation in order to give the Board confidence in assessing the scope and rigor of the various exams.

In the interim, applicants can take the current ADEX exam, or complete a “bench test” skills assessment, in lieu of an exam, to assess the clinical skills of candidates. The committee is not yet comfortable with assessing the experience of candidates in lieu of examination because of the difficulty in comparing the experience and skills of candidates.

The committee also recommends that the Board continue to require that all candidates demonstrate that they have completed the ADEX, or a comparable, substantially equivalent clinical exam. The committee also recommends continuing the requirement that candidates for licensure successfully pass a periodontal section as part of the clinical examination.

III. OTHER MATTERS:

1. Letter Keith Libou, DMD, from Delta Dental requesting clarification relative to screening for sleep apnea.

Note: On March 4, 2015, the Board considered the topic of “home sleep testing”. The public minutes state: *“A dentist cannot order or interpret the home sleep test, or screen, treatment plan or diagnose sleep apnea patients.”*

Dr. Libou requests the Board's interpretation be clarified to permit the dentist to perform standard screening and referral of patients, without physical testing or diagnosis.

The Board determined to amend the statement in the March 4, 2015 minutes to read "*A dentist cannot order or interpret the home sleep screening test, treatment plan or diagnose sleep apnea in patients.*"

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Dr. Padma Mukherjee - Appeared concerning the status of her application.

V. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT:

1. Dr. Philip Taverna - Deputy Attorney General Bindi Merchant filed a complaint in this matter and a public hearing is scheduled before the Board on August 5, 2015. DAG Merchant reported that the investigator is not able to attend as a witness, and therefore cannot testify at the hearing. Without her, the Attorney General is not able to proceed and requests to have the case dismissed.

On a motion by Dr. DeRobertis, seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Clemente, the Board dismissed the case. The vote of the Board was unanimous.

VI. ADJOURNMENT